

21st February 2025

Statement from Sandy Anghie,

However, it is disappointing – but not surprising given their past conduct – that they did not comply in full with the IMC’s ‘remedial steps’, which included publishing the recommended apology.

I was very pleased that the IMC upheld my three complaints. Most importantly, that they found The West Australian's coverage of the Perth mayoral race in 2023, in which I was a candidate, was neither fair nor balanced. It's a shame that I had to make a formal complaint to the IMC to secure an independent judgement on the one-sided campaign coverage. In my opinion there was a similar level of bias in the coverage on Channel Seven, although this was not a subject of my complaints.

I accept that candidates standing for public office are going to be the subject of legitimate scrutiny; that is a vital part of our democratic process. All I ever sought was for that scrutiny to be fair and balanced and to apply equally to the other candidates – in this case Channel 7 employee and The West Australian columnist Basil Zempilas. The IMC has now found clearly that The West Australian did not provide fair and balanced coverage in what is a deeply concerning failing for our State’s major media outlet.